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Fifty-third session

INFORMATION NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

1. The following tentative schedule for the regular meetings of the Commission's Principal Subsidiary Bodies has been established, in accordance with the decisions taken by those bodies, for the period between the fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission. In conformity with the provisions of the Plan of Action, PSBs will hold their respective annual session during the period January-September. An exception has had to be made in 1998 for the Committee on Sustainable Energy, due to the heavy schedule of meetings at UNOG.

1998	Conference of European Statisticians	18-20 May
	Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development	16-18 June
	Committee on Human Settlements	14-16 September
	Timber Committee	28 September-1 October
	Committee on Environmental Policy	28 September-2 October
	Committee on Sustainable Energy	7-9 October
1999	Inland Transport Committee	8-11 February

Meetings and study tours

2. In 1997 the ECE held a total of 593 half-days of meetings serviced by the United Nations. Of these half-days of meetings, 15 were held outside Geneva, 35 were for meetings of ECOSOC bodies on the transport of dangerous goods and 67 were for meetings of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range

Transboundary Air Pollution. In addition 36 half-days of meetings were held outside Geneva with services provided by the host authorities. For purposes of comparison the equivalent figures for the period 1990-1997 are given below:

	Geneva UN interpretation	Outside Geneva UN interpretation	Outside Geneva Host authorities interpretation
1990	755	73	91
1991	651	20	113
1992	556	24	104
1993	598	8	94
1994	615	34	92
1995	655	16	62
1996	631	32	55
1997	578	15	36

3. The meetings held outside Geneva in 1997 under the auspices of the Commission took place at the invitation of the Governments of the following countries: Austria (2), Canada (1); Czech Republic (1); Denmark (1); Finland (1); Hungary (1); Italy (2); Poland (1); Portugal (1); Russian Federation (1); Sweden (1); Switzerland (1); Turkey (1); United Kingdom (1); and at the invitation of OECD (1).

4. The Commission may wish to bear in mind that such meetings are organized only if the subsidiary body concerned has accepted an invitation extended by the host Government and that this decision is clearly reflected in the report of the body concerned. Moreover, the host Government is obliged, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/202, to bear the additional costs of meetings attributable to the venue being away from the Commission's headquarters.

5. Study Tours were held in Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania and the Republic of Korea.

Documentation

6. The following data (in terms of pages reproduced in the three working languages of the Commission) have been compiled and supplied by the Statistical Unit of the Editorial and Documents Control Section of the United Nations Office at Geneva. For purposes of comparison, the equivalent figures for the period 1990-1997 have been provided:

Year	Total physical pages reproduced in English, French and Russian
1990	96,642
1991	94,988
1992	88,905
1993	96,373
1994	91,062
1995	94,131
1996	89,148
1997	85,910